

Not only does it present an excellent opportunity to hear a wide range of talks, but it also provides a social outlet with more variety than the average LUG meet. I traveled up to the conference on the Thursday.

I was joined on my travels by Philippe De Swert from the Embedded Debian Project and Paul Sladen. We arrived in time for the evening gatherings. Leaving our luggage at the organized accommodation in a nearby Hall of Residence, we joined a large group in a local pub for drinks and chat.

I was informed that there had been a very successful session at the SELinux tutorial which had taken place earlier in the afternoon. The opportunity to experiment had been well received.

Friday sessions

Friday morning started without a hitch. The conference talks ran in parallel streams. The first talk came from Debian project leader Martin Michlmayr and discussed the issue of Free Software quality. This led in to a talk from Matthew Garrett on Debian itself.



Figure 1: Matthew Wilcox (left) who talked about PCI interfaces.

After the a coffee break, I gave a talk about the business side of Embedded Linux, which went reasonably smoothly after we found a laptop at short notice to replace a dud. Philippe followed with an talk on the work taking place on Em-Debian – the version of Debian designed for small scale embedded devices – and a somewhat extended question and answer session overran in to lunch.

The afternoon session featured a talk from Alex Perry on Eddy-current detec-

UKUUG 2004, Leeds

Summer Fun

The Linux 2004 UKUUG summer conference was held at the tail end of the first week of August, in the Medical School at the University of Leeds. This event is always very popular with the UK Linux community and with good reason. **BY JONATHAN MASTERS**

tion with Linux. It was surprising to discover the level of precision possible in digital signal processing using just inexpensive sound cards and pieces of wire.

Richard Moore of IBM followed with an overview of the Linux Kernel Crash Dump utilities, but unfortunately he had not had chance to prepare a full Dprobe talk and demonstration (as advertised). This said, we did discuss getting official kernel tracing support and the briefest of Dprobe overviews in addition to his talk.

Following a GPG key-signing session, a large group attended the formal evening meal at a Chinese restaurant, and then headed to a nearby pub. A few later found a room at the accommodation and drank some fine Belgian beer which Philippe had brought.

Saturday offered a wide variety of talks, although I elected to follow mostly the lower level stuff. This included a talk on YAFFS (Yet Another Flash Filesystem)

and "Porting Linux to the XDA-2 PDA". I discovered that the XDA-2 has two ARM processors and MPEG2 video encoding/decoding hardware. Matthew Wilcox of HP gave a talk on Linux PCI hardware support. He explained several of the upcoming variants, and threw in his usual level of technical detail.

The evening began with a group enjoying an unofficial gathering at a Lebanese restaurant, before joining a rooftop party hosted by a local Leeds-based geek.

Late Night, Early Morning

Sunday morning featured talks on VPN servers, Mailscanner, Cryptography and Replication issues. I enjoyed a talk from John Pinner on Commercial Wide Area Deployment Of Linux, which used Speedy Hire Ltd. as a case study. Paul Cooper from OpenAdvantage followed this talk with an overview of his organization and how they can offer impartial advocacy in the West Midlands. Anthony Stone finished the official speaking timetable by giving an amusing piece on Wardriving using Kismet and GPSdrive, complete with example antennas and a traffic dump he had made driving around Leeds on the previous evening.

The conference was a success and well worth attending. The talks were of interest, good in quality, and there was an opportunity to meet both new and familiar faces in the community in order to exchange information. I look forward to the Winter conference at the beginning of 2005 with great enthusiasm. ■



Figure 2: A chance to relax and socialize.